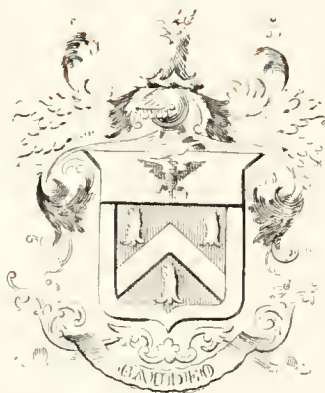
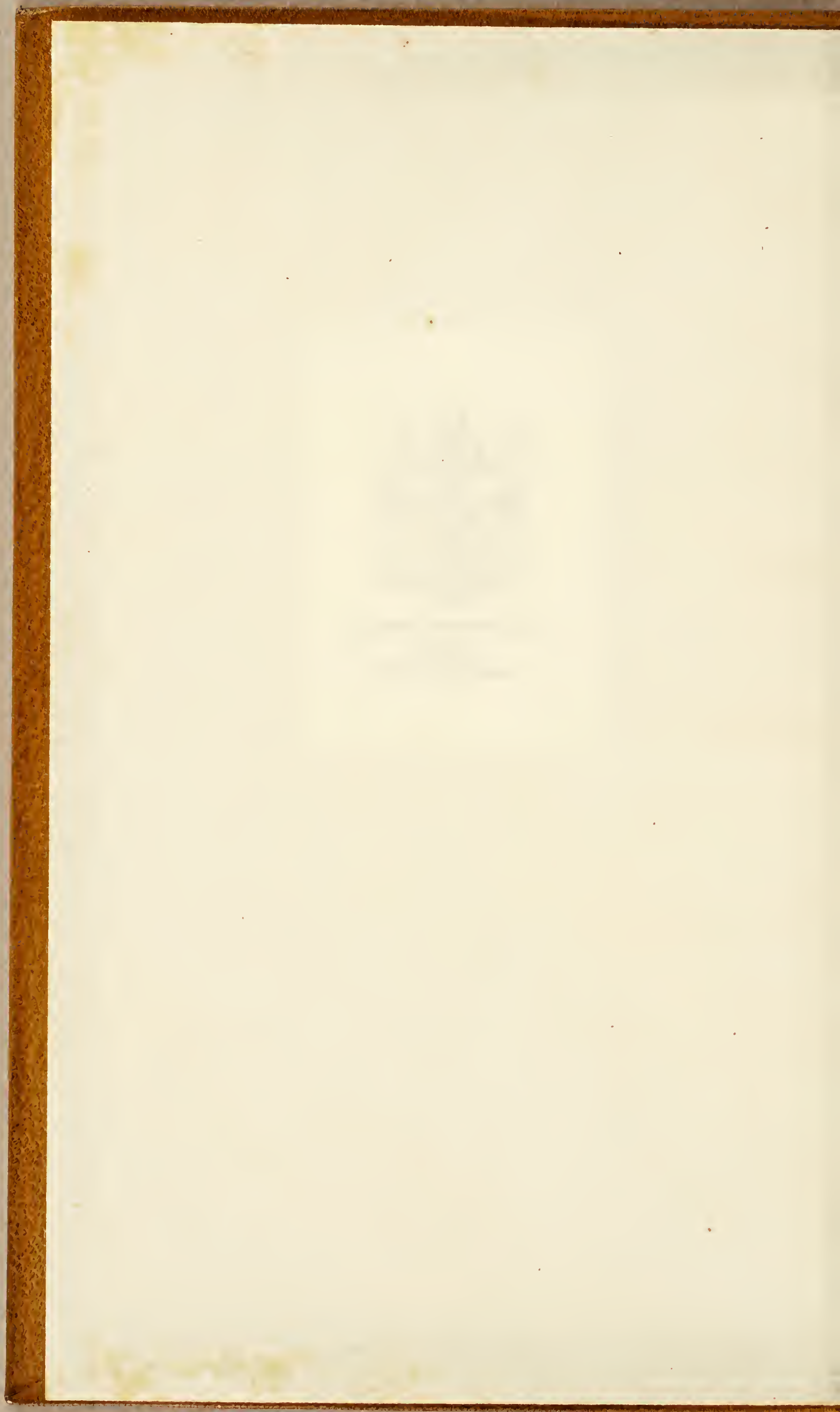
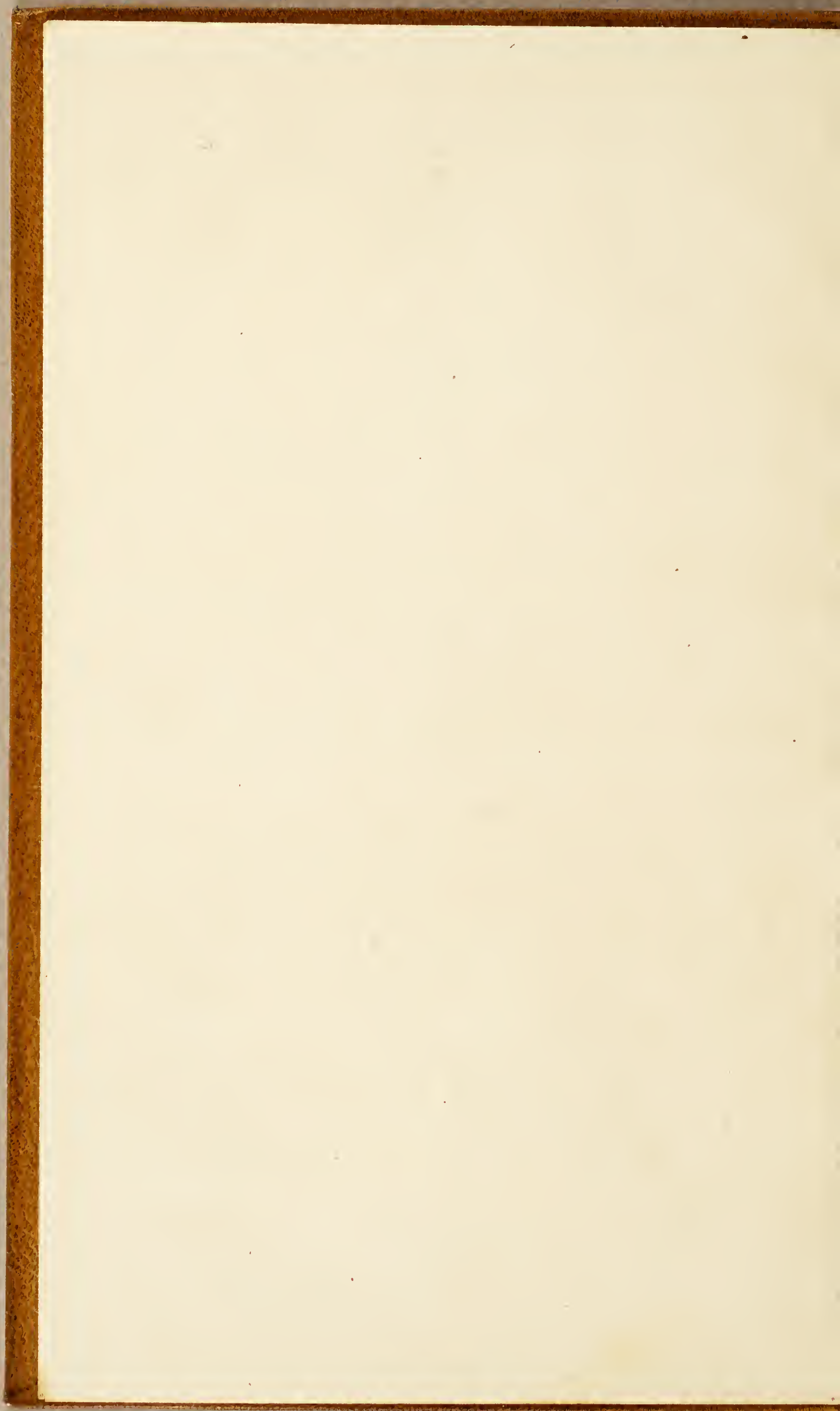


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A
GENERAL ACCOUNT

OF THE
RISE and STATE

OF THE
COLLEGE,

LATELY ESTABLISHED

In the PROVINCE of *NEW-JERSEY*,
In *AMERICA*;

And of the END and DESIGN of its Institution.

Originally published in *America*, anno 1752, by the Trustees
of the said COLLEGE; and now republished, in pur-
suance of their order, with some alterations and additions,
adapted to its present state, for the information of the
friends of learning and piety in GREAT-BRITAIN.

By the Reverend Messieurs GILBERT TENNENT and
SAMUEL DAVIES, Agents for the said Trustees.

*Nor ev'n to Britain is our care confin'd:
Lo! swarming o'er the new discover'd world,
Gay colonies extend—
Of Britain's empire the support and strength.
Behold! still more these happy seats to bless,
The muses come, and touch the warbling lyre,
In shades that never heard their voice before—
See! the wild Indian, by their music tam'd,
His savage manners quits, and from their lore
Mild wisdom learns, and arts of polish'd life!
Lo! at my pow'rful word, how wide around
Reforming science spreads her sacred light—
Till all America's untutor'd sons
Feel the blest influence of my gentle sway,
By England's sceptre guarded and sustain'd.*

THOMPSON'S Liberty

EDINBURGH Reprinted, Anno 1754

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ΕΡΕΤΕ

A

GENERAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

RISE and STATE of the COLLEGE, &c.

NOTHING has a more direct tendency to advance the happiness and glory of a community, than the founding of public schools and seminaries of learning, for the education of youth, and adorning their minds with useful knowledge and virtue. Hereby the rude and ignorant are civilized and rendered humane; persons, who would otherwise be useless members of society, are qualified to sustain, with honour, the offices they may be invested with, for the public service; reverence of the Deity, filial piety, and obedience to the laws, are inculcated and promoted.

The sciences have no where flourish'd with more success, than in our mother-country. The universities and seminaries of learning, in England and Scotland, are annually sending abroad into the kingdom, proficients in all kinds of literature; men of refined sentiments, solid judgments, and noble principles; who spread (if the expression may be allowed) a kind of literary glory over the British nation.

AMERICA remain'd, during a long period, in the thickest darkness of ignorance and barbarism, till Christianity, at the introduction of the Europeans, enlightned her hemisphere with the salutary beams of life and immortality. Science, her constant attendant, soon raised her depressed head, and the arts began to flourish. New-England first felt her benign influences, whose sons she inspired with a generous emulation of erecting schools and colleges, for the instruction of their youth, and instilling into their tender mind the principles of piety and learning. The south-westward colonies, except Virginia, continued a considerable

able number of years without any public institutions for the cultivation of the sciences. At length, several gentlemen residing in and near the province of New-Jersey, who were well-wishers to the felicity of their country, and real friends of religion and learning, having observed the vast increase of those colonies, with the rudeness and ignorance of their inhabitants, for want of the necessary means of improvement, first projected the scheme of a collegiate education in that province.

The immediate motives to this generous design, were—the great number of Christian societies then lately formed in various parts of the country, where many thousands of inhabitants, in a tract of land much larger than all Great-Britain and Ireland, ardently desirous of the administration of religious ordinances, were intirely destitute of the necessary means of instruction, and incapable of being relieved;—the urgent applications that were annually made by those vacant congregations to the clergy in their collective bodies; complaining, in the most moving manner, of their unhappy circumstances, in being deprived of the ordinary means of salvation, and left to grope after happiness almost in the obscurity of Paganism, tho' the light of revelation shone on their surrounding neighbours;—and the great scarcity of candidates for the ministerial function, to comply with these pious and Christian demands; the colleges of New-England educating hardly a competent number for the service of its own churches †—These considerations were the most urgent arguments for the immediate prosecution of the above-mentioned scheme of education.

Accordingly, in the year 1747, a petition was presented to his excellency JONATHAN BELSCHER, Esq; governor of that province (a gentleman who has long signalized himself as a patron of religion and learning) praying his MAJESTY's grant of a charter for the establishment of a public seminary of literature in New-Jersey. His excellency,

† This is attested by the associated ministers of Boston, New-England, in their recommendation of the infant college of New-Jersey; which the agents for the said college have shewn to the reverend gentlemen in London who have recommended their petition, and are ready to shew to any enquirer.

lency, with the approbation of the council and attorney-general of the said province, was pleased to comply with their request: and ordered a charter to pass the seals; incorporating sundry gentlemen, to the number of twenty-three, by the name of THE TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW-JERSEY; and appointing the governor of New-Jersey for the time being, who is his MAJESTY'S representative, to act as their president, when convened. This charter places the society upon the most catholic foundation: all protestants, of every denomination, who are loyal subjects to our MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN (the happy effects of whose mild and equal administration the remotest colonies of the British empire sensibly experience, and gratefully acknowledge) are admitted to the enjoyment of all its privileges, and allowed the unlimited exercise of their religion.

The Trustees, thus authorized with ample powers for the execution of this laudable design, in conformity to the plan of their charter, applied themselves, with the utmost deliberation, to form and enact such rules and orders for the regulation of the methods of instruction, and conduct of the students, as might tend to prevent the entrance of vice into the society, and the introduction of idleness, vanity, and extravagant expences amongst its members. It would be repugnant to the design of a general narrative, as well as impertinent to the reader, to enter into a minute detail of these several private regulations. It will suffice to say, that the two principal objects the trustees had in view, were SCIENCE and RELIGION. Their first concern was, to cultivate the minds of the pupils in all those branches of erudition which are generally taught in the universities abroad: and, to perfect their design, their next care was to rectify the heart, by inculcating the great precepts of Christianity, in order to make them good.

UPON these views this society was founded. Providence so far smil'd upon the undertaking, in the first instance, as to point out a gentleman, possessed of every requisite endowment, to be placed at the head of such an academy. The Reverend Mr AARON BURR has been long known in these parts of America, for his piety, affability, universal acquaintance

acquaintance with the arts and sciences, and his easy, familiar methods of instruction. Under his immediate tuition and government, this society has flourished far beyond the most raised and sanguine expectations. The number of students has increased, in the short space of five years, from eight or ten, to about Sixty; besides near Forty in the grammar-school.

As no human institutions, in a world of imperfection and error, are so completely modelled, as to exclude the possibility of farther emendation; it may be said without any intention of disparagement to other learned seminaries, that the governors of this college have endeavoured to improve upon the commonly received plans of education. They proceed not so much in the method of a dogmatic institution, by prolix discourses on the different branches of the sciences, by burdening the memory, and imposing heavy and disagreeable tasks; as in the Socratic way of free dialogue, between teacher and pupil, or between the students themselves, under the inspection of their tutors. In this manner, the attention is engaged, the mind entertained, and the scholar animated in the pursuit of knowledge. In fine, the arts and sciences are conveyed into the minds of youth, in a method the most easy, natural and familiar. But as religion ought to be the end of all instruction, and gives it the last degree of perfection; as one of the primary views of this foundation was to educate young gentlemen for the sacred office of the ministry, and fit them for the discharge of so noble an employment; divinity, the mistress of the sciences, engages the peculiar attention of the governors of this society. Stated times are set apart for the study of the holy scriptures in the original languages, and stated hours daily consecrated to the service of religion. The utmost care is taken to discountenance vice, and to encourage the practice of virtue; and a manly, rational and Christian behaviour in the students. Enthusiasm on the one hand, and prophaneness on the other, are equally guarded against, and meet with the severest checks.

Under such management, this seminary, from the smallest beginnings, quickly drew the public attention, enlarged the number of her pupils, raised her reputation,
and

and now, tho' in her infancy, almost rivals her ancient sisters upon the continent.

Daily observation evinces, that in proportion as learning makes its progress in a country, it softens the natural roughness, eradicates the prejudices, and transforms the genius and disposition of its inhabitants. New-Jersey, and the adjacent provinces, already feel the happy effects of this useful institution. A general desire of knowledge seems to be spreading among the people: parents are inspired with an emulation of cultivating the minds of their offspring: public stations are honourably fill'd by gentlemen, who have received their education here: and from hence many Christian assemblies are furnish'd with men of distinguished talents, for the discharge of the pastoral office.

The Trustees acknowledge, with the utmost gratitude, the several benefactions that have been made to this infant society, by the lovers of piety and learning. But notwithstanding the assistances obtained; considering the constant annual maintenance of the president and tutors;—the expence that must unavoidably attend the erection of an edifice, with a requisite number of apartments;—the building an house for the residence of the president;—furnishing the library, which is at present very small;—and procuring a proper apparatus for philosophical experiments;—the state of their treasury is altogether inadequate to those chargeable demands †. These things, so absolutely necessary

† The Trustees have received about L. 1200 Sterling in America, the yearly interest of which they have voted to be applied to the support of the president and tutors: but it is hardly sufficient for that purpose; much less for the increase of their number, which is necessary even at present.—The inhabitants of Prince-Town, where the college is to be erected, have also given in land for ever to the value of L. 400 Sterling, for the seat of the college, and to supply it with fire-wood.

The number of scholars, including those in the grammar-school, is already near an hundred; and there is no small prospect of their annual increase. They cannot therefore be accommodated in a building of less than forty rooms, with a large hall for public exercises, a library-room, a dwelling-house for the president, and other convenient buildings; the expence of which, it is thought, will amount to above L. 2000 Sterling. And at least the sum of L. 2000 more will be necessary—for enlarging the library,—furnishing a philosophical apparatus, encreasing the salaries and number of the instructors;—and forming a sufficient fund for the support of youth of piety and genius, who are unable to defray the expences of a collegiate education; without which, the numerous growing churches there cannot be well supplied.

tary to the well-being of the society, must remain unaffected, until Providence is pleased to excite the beneficence of those who wish the prosperity of religion and literature in the uncultivated parts of the world. The members of the college, who are annually growing more numerous, for want of a public building for their reception, must struggle under the greatest difficulties in procuring accommodations in private families; and that too in a dispersed village, where their daily attendance on the collegiate exercises is subject to numberless inconveniencies.

From the above representation of the ends for which this corporation was founded; the happy effects of its institution; and its present necessitous circumstances; it is hoped, that the pious and benevolent in Great-Britain, into whose hands these papers may fall, will extend their generous aids, in the prosecution and completion of so excellent and useful a design. A design! upon the success of which, the happiness of multitudes in sundry colonies, and their numerous posterity, in the present and future ages far distant, in a great measure depends. A design! which not only tends to promote the weal of the British inhabitants, but also of the German emigrants; and to spread the gospel of salvation among the benighted Indian tribes, and attach them to his MAJESTY'S government. A design! which is not calculated to promote the low purposes of a party, * but in its views and consequences

* The trustees of the said college have not made such regulations as may burden the consciences of any, or confine the advantages of the institution to a party; nor did they desire such a power; as is evident from the following words of the charter—"The said petitioners have also expressed their earnest desire, "that those of every religious denomination may have free and equal liberty and advantages of education in the said COLLEGE; any different sentiments in religion notwithstanding."—Nor can the trustees exercise such power, in time coming, without counteracting, and of consequence forfeiting their charter; the words of which are these—"The trustees of the said college are hereby empowered to make such ordinances and laws, "as may tend to the good government of the said college, not repugnant to the laws and statutes of our realm of Great-Britain, or "of this our province of New-Jersey; and not excluding any person "of any religious denomination whatsoever, from free and equal liberty and advantage of education, or from any of the liberties, privileges or immunities of the said college, on account of his or their being "of a religious profession different from the said trustees of the said college."

quences affects the Protestant interest in general, and Great-Britain in particular, both in religious and civil respects; since by this, the filial duty of her descendents will be inculcated, their manners reformed, and her trade increased; which is the basis of her empire, glory and felicity.

THE inhabitants of the infant colonies, dependent upon this seminary, unable to relieve themselves, are constrained to solicit and implore the assistance of others. And to whom shall they look, but to their tender and powerful parent, the venerable church of Scotland, whose standard of faith, worship and discipline they have adopted?—To move her compassion, they plead their relation as children, as fellow-subjects, as Christian and Protestant brethren with her sons that still enjoy the advantages of residing in their native country—They plead the deplorable circumstances of the church, and the exigences of the state, for want of such an institution brought to maturity——And they beg leave modestly to intimate their importance to their mother-country, as they enlarge the British dominions upon a vast continent, whither the industrious poor may transplant themselves, and find a comfortable subsistence; as they are a check upon the growth of the French power in America; engage the Indian natives to the British interest; furnish various assistances in time of war against the common enemy; and carry on fundry branches of trade, advantageous to Great-Britain; which will undoubtedly flourish more, in proportion to their improvements in the liberal arts and sciences; for history and observation assure us, that learning and trade mutually promote each other.

Next to the advancement of the divine honour, the noblest pursuit of man, surely nothing can afford the human mind a more pleasing reflection, than the being instrumental in promoting the general felicity of mankind. These important ends can by no means be so effectually served, as by forming the rising generation to be useful members of the community; and by diffusing the light of Christianity among the ignorant and uncivilized nations of the earth.

T O T H E
W O R T H Y and G E N E R O U S F R I E N D S
O F
R E L I G I O N and L E A R N I N G,

The PETITION of GILBERT TENNENT and
SAMUEL DAVIES, in the name of the Trustees
of the infant College of New-Jersey, and many of
the inhabitants of that and the neighbouring Pro-
vinces;

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT the said trustees, empowered by a charter
lately obtained, have founded a seminary of learn-
ing in said province; in which all Protestants of every
denomination, who are loyal subjects to his MAJESTY,
have a right to equal advantages of education.

That though in its infancy, it has already qualified several
persons for considerable service in the church and state; and
from very small beginnings, the number of scholars, inclu-
ding those in the grammar school, is now increased to
near a hundred; who are under the inspection and care
of a president and two tutors.

That though various attempts have been made in those
provinces, to carry on this useful design; yet, such is the
poverty of many who are friends to it, and so insensible
are others of the necessity and value of human literature,
that the fund obtained is not sufficient—for the competent
support of the president and tutors,—the erection of pro-
per buildings,—and furnishing a suitable library and phi-
losophical apparatus.

That a college suitably endowed, in that part of the
world, is of the highest importance to the civil and religi-
ous interests of its inhabitants; the want of which has
been

been long lamented by many judicious well-wishers to both—In particular,

That it is of the last necessity—to furnish persons with proper qualifications to supply the many congregations in the southern provinces of North America, of which there are at present no less than fifty or sixty entirely destitute of the stated ministry of the gospel; and no small prospect, on various accounts, of the great and speedy increase of their number—to preserve a sense of religion, and promote the knowledge of the English language, among the German Protestant Emigrants, now settled in those colonies, by educating some of their youth for the ministry in an English college; that so national prejudices may be removed, and they more easily incorporated with the rest of his MAJESTY'S subjects—and to propagate the Christian religion among the Indian natives; which may not only have the happiest influence on their immortal state, but is also the best expedient to attach them inviolably to his MAJESTY'S crown, and the interests of Great-Britain.

That as there is no prospect of a sufficient augmentation of the fund by any farther benefactions in those provinces, to bring this seminary to such maturity, as may answer the pressing exigencies of the numerous societies that expect supplies from thence; the trustees are therefore constrained to solicit the assistance of the charitable and benevolent in distant parts, to promote so arduous and important an undertaking: which your petitioners (whom the said trustees have empowered to act for them in this affair) do humbly and earnestly request; being fully persuaded, That whatsoever is given to accomplish this valuable design, will be an offering acceptable to God, and of extensive good to men in the present and future generations.

LONDON, Winchester-Street, near }
Little Moor-Gate, Jan. 19, 1754. }

Follows, A RECOMMENDATION by a number of ministers at or near London.

WE, whose names are underwritten, having seen the credentials of the petitioners, and an attested account of the design of their mission, do look upon the above representation to be just, and the design of it important; and as such we recommend it to persons of benevolent and charitable dispositions.

Thomas Bradbury.	John Halford.
Ja. Earel, D. D.	Robert Cornthwaite.
Zeph. Marryat, D. D.	Thomas Oswald.
John Guyse, D. D.	Jo. Richard Pittius.
Ben. Grosvenor, D. D.	John Patrick.
H. Miles, D. D. F. R. S.	Samuel Pike.
Fre. M. Ziegenhagen.	Timothy Jollie.
John Barker.	John Rogers.
Richard Rawlin.	Robert Lawson.
Sam. Chandler.	John Richardson.
Tho. Hall.	Tho. Towle.
Nath. Lardner, D. D.	John Brine.
Jos. Stennett, D. D.	Michael Pope.
George Benson, D. D.	Samuel Brewer.
John Gill, D. D.	Andrew Kippis.
Samuel Price.	John Stevens.
Dav. Jennings, D. D.	Tho. Gibbons.
Thomas Newman.	Edward Pickard.
Joseph Denham.	Josiah Thomson, jun.
William King.	Joseph Pitts.
S. Lawrence, M. D.	Wm. Guyse.
Fr. Spilsbury.	R. Flexman.
John Hodge.	Sam. Fry.
William Prior.	C. Bulkley.
John Allen, M. D.	Edward Hitchin.
John Milner, D. D.	Philip Furneaux.
Edm. Calamy.	David Muir.
E. Godwin.	Benj. Wallin.
Will. Crookshank.	Sam. Morton Savage.
Joseph Burroughs.	J. Walker.
Wm. Langford,	Richard Winter.
Ca. Fleming.	Samuel Hayward.
John Mitchel.	Sam. Stennett.
William Hunt.	Wm. Anderson.

THE Reverend Mr. Pemberton of New York, Preses of the Society's correspondents in America, and one of the trustees of the infant college of New-Jersey, having, in a letter dated April 27th 1749, informed THE SOCIETY in Scotland FOR PROPAGATING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE, of the erection of said college; and that if they, by recommending the design to pious and charitable persons, could procure any assistance, it would be of extensive service to the interests of religion in those parts, &c. &c. &c. the said HONOURABLE SOCIETY, anno 1750, were pleased to recommend it in the following terms:

“ As to the college proposed to be erected in New-Jersey, the Society have done every thing in their power to encourage it; and have set apart the sum of L. 30 Sterling, to be employed in buying proper books for the students: so that, in a little time, there is reason to hope, that there will be no more reason for a complaint, so often made in those parts, that “ the harvest is great, but the labourers are few.—Neither can the Directors omit taking this opportunity of recommending this good design to others. The thing indeed recommends itself, and must do so to every person, whose heart is capable of the least tincture of compassion for such vast numbers of poor forlorn Indians.—Nor would such a seminary answer a religious end only; it would also serve a political view: for sure, if from us learning and good manners could be propagated thro’ these savages, it would be a mean of engaging them more firmly in the British interest. And if, along with learning and good manners, true religion should take place among them, and they become subjects, willing subjects to the KING of all kings, what joy would not this yield to every sincere Christian?

“ By this means, streams would break out in that vast wilderness, and rivers run in that immense desert. Nay, the desert would rejoice, and blossom as the rose; so that from the rising of the sun unto where he goeth down, a pure offering should be offered unto the true
“ God.

“ God. Men should be blessed in Jesus, and all nations
 “ call him blessed.

“ These are the prayers of this society; and they are
 “ the prayers of every true Christian.”

See a short account of the present state of THE SOCIETY
 in Scotland FOR PROPAGATING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,
 subjoined to the Reverend Mr. Blair's sermon preached be-
 fore them, Jan. 1st, 1750.

At a meeting of the associated pastors in Boston New-England.

September 1752.

THE Reverend Mr. Pemberton of New-York, one
 of the trustees of the infant college of New-Jersey,
 having represented to us, that the trustees are sending an
 agent, both to England and Scotland, in order to solicit
 charitable collections for the building and endowing the
 said college; which the trustees, in the present circumstan-
 ces of those colonies, can see no other way to accomplish:
 and Mr. Pemberton desiring our recommendation of this
 design, to our brethren in Great-Britain; we cannot but
 express our apprehension of the importance of such a soci-
 ety in that part of North-America, for supplying the eight
 British provinces south-westward of New-England, with
 ministers of piety and learning; for want of which, great
 and growing numbers of people in those southern provin-
 ces, are in imminent danger of perishing in ignorance and
 error; the two colleges in New-England being unable to
 supply them: and tho' our own college in Cambridge hath
 great need of further benefactions, and we shall be glad
 if the friends of religion and learning would help us; yet
 therewith, we would also commend this undertaking to the
 divine blessing, and to the beneficence of those who desire
 the enlargement of CHRIST's kingdom, and the advance-
 ment of learning in those ends of the earth. And what-
 ever any shall give to this important interest, we apprehend
 will be an offering acceptable to God, and of extensive
 good to men, both in the present and future generations.

In the name, and by order of the association.

JOSEPH SEWALL. D. D.

ABSTRACT of the ACT and RECOMMENDATION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the church of Scotland, met at Edinburgh May 31. 1754, for a collection for the College of New-Jersey.

THE General Assembly of the church of Scotland, met at Edinburgh on the 31st day of May 1754, having had presented to them, by the Reverend Messieurs Gilbert Tennent and Samuel Davies, two petitions, the one from the synod of New-York, and the other from the trustees of the college of New-Jersey, of the same import with the preceeding papers; and having also laid before them certificates and recommendations from persons of honour and credit; and being sensible that the encouraging of the said college is of great importance to the interests of religion and learning, and the support and further advancement of the kingdom of Christ in those parts of the world; did appoint a collection to be made at the church-doors of all the parishes through Scotland upon any Lord's day betwixt and the first day of January next; the particular day to be fixed by the several presbyteries, as they find to be most convenient for the parishes in their bounds; and the money collected within the bounds of the Synods of Glasgow, and Air, and of Argyle, to be paid in to Baillie Archibald Ingram Merchant in Glasgow; and that collected within the bounds of the other synods in Scotland, to be paid into Mr. William Hog and son, merchants in Edinburgh: and the General Assembly earnestly recommends it to all, to contribute, according to their ability, to this useful and charitable design; and ordains their act and recommendation to be read from the pulpit the sabbath immediately preceeding the day that shall be appointed for the collection, and that ministers enforce it with suitable exhortations.

There is subjoined to the Assembly's Act and Recommendation a LETTER directed to their moderator, from
the

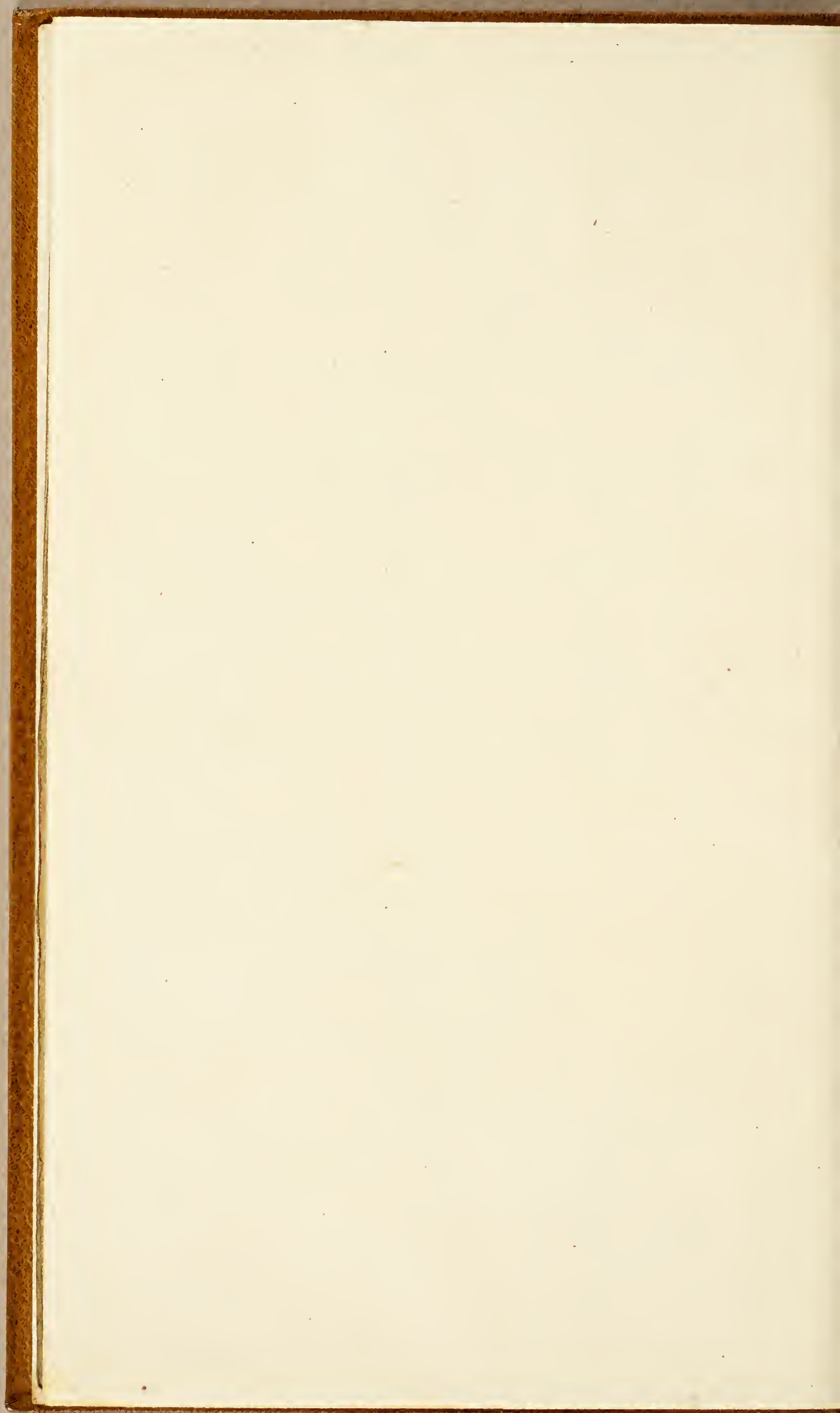
the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge,
 sign'd by the most honourable the Marquis of Lothian,
 their president, the tenor whereof follows: "Very Reve-
 "rend Sir, The Society in Scotland for propagating Chri-
 "stian knowledge take this opportunity to signify the ge-
 "nuine pleasure it gave them, to observe with what ala-
 "cridy the venerable assembly countenanced a general col-
 "lection thro' Scotland, for the encouragement of the
 "lately erected college at New-Jersey.—We had some time
 "ago the state of that college under consideration; and,
 "for promoting its interest, gave a sum for purchasing
 "books for the use of its library.—It would give great
 "satisfaction to this society, if the assembly would be
 "pleased to authorise this letter to be annexed to their act,
 "and appoint it to be read along with it; that it may be
 "known to the whole church, how much the society is
 "perswaded, that the encouragement of that newly erec-
 "ted college will tend to the advancement of learning and
 "the improvement of religion, in that distant part of his
 "Majesty's dominions. This, in name and by appoint-
 "ment of the general meeting of the said society, is sub-
 "scribed by,

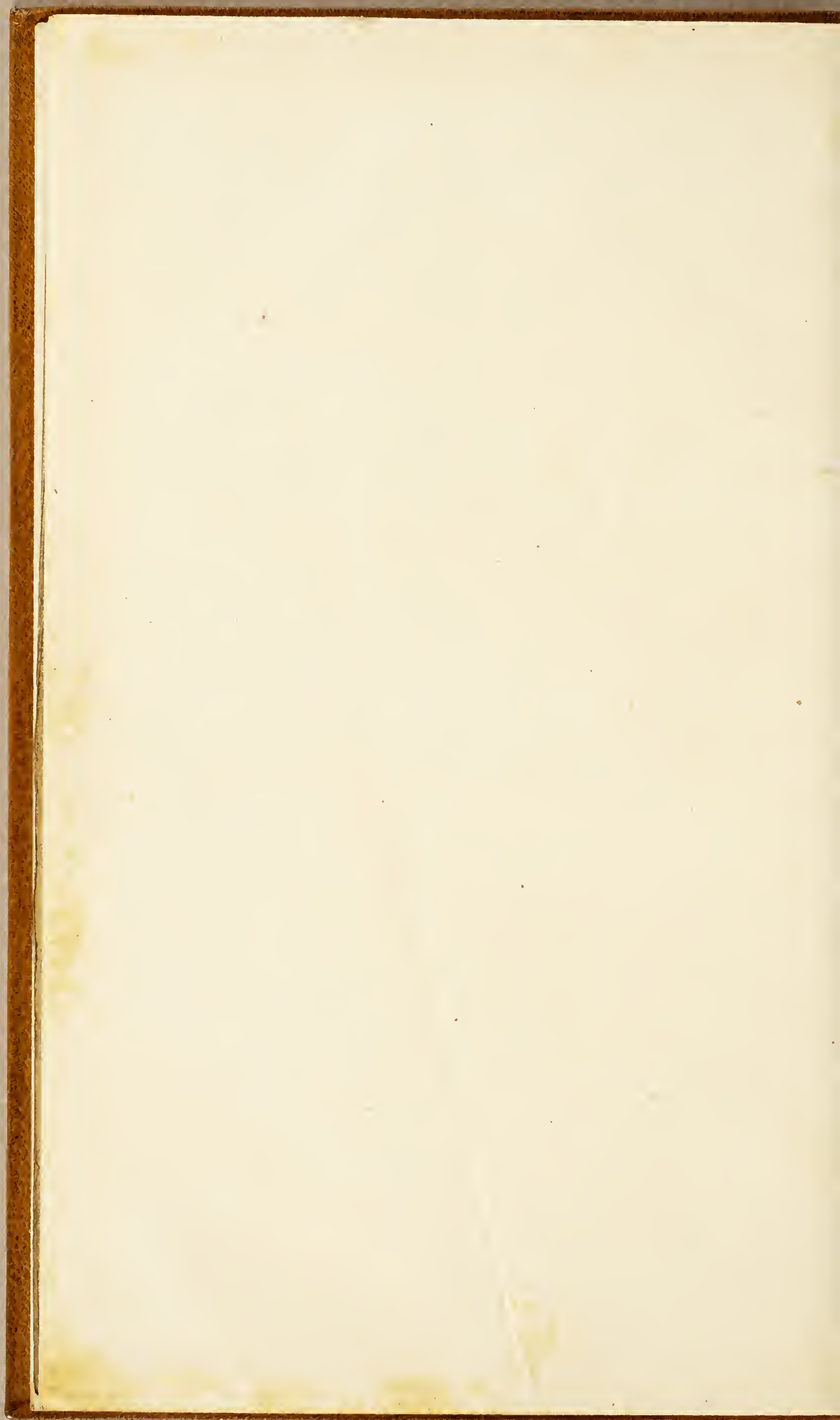
"Very Reverend Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

Edin. May
 30. 1754.

"LOTHIAN."





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